



Ninety-Eighth Legislature - First Session - 2003
Introducer's Statement of Intent
LB 198

Chairperson: Floyd P. Vrtiska
Committee: Business and Labor
Date of Hearing: January 27, 2003

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB 198 provides an enforcement mechanism for various administrative provisions of the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Act. These include monetary penalties for uninsured employers, claims handling standards and other obligations for workers' compensation insurers, self-insurers, and intergovernmental risk management pools, obligations of managed care plans, and vocational rehabilitation services and costs.

The bill establishes a formal role for the administrator of the compensation court and provides that the administrator may initiate actions before the compensation court and may appear and present evidence before the court. The bill also clarifies that various other administrative duties established under the Act for the court will be performed by the administrator.

The bill also includes various other changes of a substantive nature relating to insurance policy exclusions, release of medical records, interest, reportable injuries, cancellations and non-renewals of workers' compensation insurance policies, acting judges and vocational rehabilitation.

Principal Introducer:

Floyd P. Vrtiska, Chairperson
Committee on Business and Labor